

China and the United Nations

If the United Nations ought to exclude any nation from membership it ought to exclude Communist China. That government has denounced every principle upon which the United Nations rests. It has defamed every non-Communist government in the world and at least one Communist government. It has waged war against peace-keeping forces fighting in the name of the United Nations. It has invaded the lands of a peaceful neighbor and still occupies its territory. It has encouraged and helped prolonged war in South Vietnam. It has attempted to subvert and overthrow the friendly government of Indonesia. It has established a record of violence, aggression and betrayal.

Communist China has, in addition, made it clear that it will be its purpose, if it is admitted, to wreck the United Nations. It clearly will use its place in the U.N. as a vent from which to void upon the world another torrent of billingsgate and bilgewater as offensive and malodorous as that which has issued from Peking.

By any standard that has hitherto been used to deny Communist China admission, the reasons for refusing it entry into a community of civilized states are greater than they ever have been. So the resistance of the United States and its supporters to admission now rest upon grounds more logical than ever, given the precedents of the past.

There is, however, a question not related to Communist China alone, that is open for debate and on which there is a room for difference. That is the question of whether any nation ought to be excluded from a forum of world powers otherwise universal in its scope. If there are to be any moral standards; Communist China must be kept out. If there are to be no standards, a case can be made for its admission. And an argument can be made for having no standards at all. Perhaps logically it is this bridge which the U.N. ought to cross, in principle, before it even attempts to debate, in particular, the admission of Communist China.

Once the United Nations embraced the theory of universality, as a matter of political realism, by amending the Charter, as an acknowledgment of the necessities of life in a wicked world, the decisions on the admission of particular powers would be reduced to a question of their physical control over the territories they claim to represent and each action would be divested of all connotations of moral judgment.

It is difficult to see how, in advance of that day, or prior to a sweeping alteration of Communist China's international behavior, any government in the United States could support the admission of Communist China. The only ground for admitting it would be the ground that no country, however reprehensible or immoral or offensive, ought to be kept out of the United Nations.